

**Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee Meeting
May 19, 2004**

1. Meeting called to order. The Committee explained what it has been working on to two new members.
2. Handout Discussion –

Jerry Smith volunteered to take the additional Abandoned Well fact sheets to Ernest Freeman with LSU Ag. He will also get the Irrigation Well fact sheet to Chip Johnson with the Avoyelles Parish Office Of Emergency Preparedness and Kirk Garber with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Micaela Marchand suggested that the Irrigation Well fact sheet could be distributed at the Farm Bureau office. Christobal Lopez agreed and said he knew someone with the Farmer's Home Administration that could distribute them too. Jerry Smith said the Committee should get the Irrigation Well fact sheets to anyone who works with farmers. Ms. Marchand distributed the above mentioned fact sheets, along with the Blank Spill Plan, to the Committee. Mr. Lopez said he could take copies of the Blank Spill Plan to Allen Canning Company, where he works, and Jerry Smith said he would take some to the next meeting of the Avoyelles Water Operator's Group. He also said he'd get them to Todd St. Romaine, to which Ray Bordelon suggested bringing some to Paul Wall as well. Mr. Smith said he would get everything to the people the Committee suggested. Christobal Lopez suggested advertising the fact sheets in the paper, so Micaela Marchand said she'd put something together and get it to Connie Ducote so that Ms. Ducote could take it to the newspaper office. Jerry Smith indicated that he'd like Ms. Marchand to write something up about irrigation well best management practices as new farmers will be working in the parish with sweet potato season starting up and they may not know the best way to manage the use of irrigation wells. Ms. Marchand said she would write something up on Abandoned Water Wells and Irrigation Wells. Christobal Lopez asked who should be notified when a water well is closed, and Jesse Means explained the Department of Transportation and Development's rules and regulations and how they keep a registry of all water wells in the state.

3. Ordinance Discussion –

Jerry Smith opened by explaining how the Police Jury voted against adopting the ordinance in their May 10th meeting because they wanted more time to review it and to receive comment from the public. He stated that the next Police Jury meeting is scheduled for June 8, and that there will be a public hearing on the ordinance at 5:30, and a regular Police Jury meeting following it at 6:30 during which the ordinance will be voted upon. The Committee then discussed the strategy to be taken for the meetings. Ray Bordelon said that the Committee should be very specific as to what to say. Jerry Smith then discussed the reasoning of some of the Police Jury members as to why they voted the way they did. Jesse Means told the Committee that DEQ proposes that Howard Fielding go to the next Police Jury meeting and make a statement for passage of the ordinance. The Committee agreed to this. Mr. Smith said the Committee should get as many members there as possible, and he also said he'd ask the Avoyelles Water Operator's Group members to attend. Christobal Lopez asked who funds the Committee and Jesse Means and Micaela Marchand both explained that so far DEQ has been paying for any costs incurred. Mr. Lopez then asked what the ordinance does. Mr. Smith explained that it prevents any new potential sources of contamination from being located near existing public supply wells and how it says that before any new well, public or private, is installed, the proposed well owner must survey a 1000' area around the proposed well site for any potential sources of contamination, which are listed in the ordinance. He explained how it says that the survey must be reported to the Police Jury, which will send a copy to the Health Department, for a review so that it can be assured that the proposed well placement won't be a risk to the water supply source, i.e. the aquifer. Micaela Marchand added that the ordinance doesn't say that new wells can't be installed, just that the area around them must be looked at. Christobal Lopez asked if there was a licensing process for well installation. Mr. Smith said drillers must be licensed. Jesse Means explained how wells must be registered with the Department of Transportation and Development and how in Avoyelles Parish, well owners must get a permit for electricity, which Mr. Smith confirmed. The Committee then agreed to meet at Jerry Smith's office at 4:30, prior to going to the Police Jury meeting. Mr. Smith

said he'd get the Avoyelles Water Operator's Group and people from the Louisiana Rural Water Association to the meeting as well. Micaela Marchand and Mr. Jerry discussed letting Howard Fielding speak first. Christobal Lopez asked why the Committee is trying to get the ordinance passed by the Police Jury and everyone explained to him how most of the wells are in the parish's jurisdiction, outside of any municipality. Ray Bordelon and Micaela Marchand pointed out that the ordinance still needed to be brought to the town council for Mansura and Moreauville. Ms. Marchand said she could get the Committee on the agenda for those two towns. Jesse Means explained the plan for those municipalities that should pass ordinances to the new Committee members, and how Marksville has already passed it, and how Simmesport is going to pass it. He explained that DEQ introduced the ordinance to the mayors of Mansura and Moreauville, and that Mansura had already voted it down once, and that Moreauville's town council has yet to consider it. Micaela Marchand introduced some form letters the Committee members can use to correspond with their police jurors. The Committee then discussed how mailing something to the police jurors might not work. Ray Bordelon stated that the Committee should just state what the ordinance does in simple, plain terms, at the meeting. Jerry Smith said getting Howard Fielding to talk is a very good idea as Mr. Fielding has a lot of experience in protecting drinking water. Ms. Marchand handed out the form letters just in case the members decide to use them. The Committee members expressed that they were impressed the facts Ms. Marchand had compiled with the letters. Christobal Lopez asked where else the ordinance is being pushed, and Jesse Means explained how DEQ promotes the passage of ordinance everywhere it does work for the Drinking Water Protection Program. Ray Bordelon said that he gave a presentation to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, in which he discussed the work the Committee is doing with the ordinance. He said that people from around the state were there and that several of them expressed interest in the ordinance. Micaela Marchand then went over some corrections to the form letters she had just passed out. Jesse Means then explained the Source Water Assessment Program and how the Drinking Water Protection Program evolved from that so that Christobal Lopez could understand better why the Committee had been formed. Mr. Lopez

asked what is being done with existing potential sources of contamination, and Mr. Means said that basically the Committee and DEQ has been educating them on drinking water protection. Ray Bordelon and Jerry Smith explained how the Committee and DEQ visited the potential sources of contamination, and has been distributing the various fact sheets and getting articles in the paper. They talked about how the Committee focused on above ground storage tanks and got one of the local gasoline distributors and the State Fire Marshal involved as an example. Mr. Lopez said that there is a large used oil distributor in Avoyelles Parish. Jerry Smith said they take used oil from the different used oil collectors, like Wal-Mart, in the parish. Ray Bordelon said that the large haulers should really be watched and Mr. Smith agreed and added that sewage haulers should be looked at as well. Micaela Marchand pointed out that the State of Florida is requiring local passage of drinking water protection ordinances. Mr. Lopez discussed getting the word out more on used oil recycling. Jerry Smith asked if the Committee should send the Police Juror's a letter about the ordinance. Caroline and Ray Bordelon both said maybe a letter could help. Ms. Marchand said that if a letter is written, to keep it short. Christobal Lopez asked how much money the ordinance would mean for the Police Jury. Mr. Smith said that there would be some cost involved. Ray Bordelon then said that a system is already in place for review because of the electricity permits and that the Police Jury could make money out of the ordinance. Mr. Lopez then stated that this was the exact point he was trying to make. He said that if the Police Jury can be shown that they can make money due to the ordinance's enforcement, it could get their attention. Ray Bordelon said that the Police Jury meetings are now televised live and that people watching it may not like how telling the Police Jury can make money out of the ordinance sounds. Mr. Lopez asked if the Committee could at least tell the Police Jury that it will be of no cost. Mr. Bordelon said he believes so. Jerry Smith told the Committee how Jim Lee, the Police Jury's lawyer, said that farmers wouldn't want to be bothered with any kind of permitting process. Ray Bordelon said that those days are over and that with the population becoming as large as it is, people can't just do anything they want any more without considering the consequences. Jerry Smith agreed. Mr. Bordelon said that a permitting process that could come out of the

ordinance could be a good way of tracking wells. Mr. Smith gave an example of how the Town of Evergreen was trying to drill a new water well next to an oxidation pond. Christobal Lopez asked if the Committee knows where every well in Avoyelles Parish is, to which the Committee agreed the answer was no. Mr. Lopez stated that he could get some information to the Committee that shows where abandoned water wells from 1969 to the present are located.

4. There was no further open discussion. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 29 at 6:00 in Marksville.
5. Meeting adjourned.